



The Human Ecology Foundation of Canada

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send reply to:

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The Honorable Jake Epp
Minister of Health and Welfare
Brooke Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa Ontario
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Dear Mr. Epp:

The purpose of this letter is to request a meeting with your officials in order that our Association could discuss the situation that exists with persons suffering from Environmental Hypersensitivity.

The Human Ecology Foundation of Canada, a registered charitable organization that has been formed as a self help group for the environmentally ill, has a membership of over 1000 families, over 300 in Ottawa alone. Most of the members in Ottawa are civil servants. A number of problems present themselves that we would like to discuss with Health and Welfare officials.

We would like you to consider the following:

- 1) Recognition: The Thompson report (Ontario Provincial Government) recognizes the existence of environmental hypersensitivity. We believe the Federal Government should as well. A number of civil servants suffer from the disorder and are not receiving the attention they require. Research is definitely needed.
- 2) Medical Insurance: Remedies available to members are not being covered by GSMIP, and disability insurance is almost impossible to obtain, because of lack of recognition and possibly also because with this disorder a few become well again. Treasury Board appears reluctant to request changes in insurance contracts without medical direction. Also we understand you have full control over medical retirement.

- 3) Public Service Policies: Policies currently in existence are still inadequate to deal with problems associated with the environmentally ill, which we consider to be a handicap. Management is reluctant to acknowledge the special needs of such people. Public Works needs to change many construction practices.
- 4) Funding I believe our association in providing counselling and other assistance to the environmentally ill is performing a vital public service. We would appreciate discussing the possibility of federal financial assistance. It would be appreciated if you designate a senior medical officer in your department to act as a liaison officer to our association, to meet with myself and other members of our executive, to discuss the issues I have raised, and find solutions to the problems at hand.

I wish to close by saying that Environmental Hypersensitivity is a serious medical that is growing rapidly. Our association has grow to its present size in just 5 years. Many of our members are severely affected. Your personal consideration would be very much appreciated.

Lynda Brooks
President

836-4565

Lynda Brooks R.N.